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**(12) United States Patent**  
**Bruekers****(10) Patent No.: US 6,266,368 B1**  
**(45) Date of Patent: Jul. 24, 2001****(54) DATA COMPRESSION/EXPANSION ON A PLURALITY OF DIGITAL INFORMATION SIGNALS****(75) Inventor:** Alphons A. M. L. Bruekers, Eindhoven (NL)**(73) Assignee:** U.S. Philips Corporation, New York, NY (US)**(\*) Notice:** Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.**(21) Appl. No.:** 09/007,551**(22) Filed:** Jan. 15, 1998**(30) Foreign Application Priority Data**

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**(51) Int. Cl.?** ..... **H04B 1/66****(52) U.S. Cl.** ..... **375/240; 704/500****(58) Field of Search** ..... **341/65, 67, 76, 341/77; 704/500, 503; 375/240****(56) References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**5,818,943 \* 10/1998 Ten Kate ..... 381/27  
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**(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm**—Michael E. Belk**(57) ABSTRACT**

A data compression apparatus is proposed for data compressing at least a first and a second digital information signal ( $L_0, L_1, L_2, \dots, R_0, R_1, R_2, \dots$ ), each of the at least two digital information signals comprising subsequent samples. The apparatus comprises an input (12) for receiving the first and second digital information signal, a merging unit (6) for merging the samples of the first and second digital information signal after each other into one datastream so as to obtain a composite information signal ( $L_0, R_0, L_1, R_1, L_2, R_2, \dots$ ). Further, a data compression unit (12) is available for data compressing the composite information signal so as to obtain a data compressed composite information signal and an output (16) is present for supplying the data compressed composite information signal.

**22 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets**